REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the present application, with claim 1 being independent. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended so that it no longer exceeds 150 words.

Claims

The claims have been amended in order to avoid claim interpretation under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶6. These amendments are not believed to narrow the scope of the claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected both pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Takiyasu et al. (US 5,113,392) in view of Aziz et al. (US 5,548,646). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that Takiyasu teaches the fragmentation of a transmission message into a plurality of information blocks, and that Aziz teaches encryption of packets, and that it would be obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine these

references and arrive at the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Takiyasu teaches how messages longer than the maximum length of an information field in a cell will be segmented into a plurality of cells. Takiyasu does not suggest any "adding [of] control information for ensuring continuity between the divided data groups". According to the Examiner the info field 16 indicates the position of a particular information block. Takiyasu, column 5, lines 32-35, specifies that the info field 16 is a "60 byte user information field". We are unable to find any description of insertion of position information in this field in Takiyasu.

According to Takiyasu, column 6, lines 14-17, the 2 bit segment type information 15A indicates the position of the information block contained in the info field. However, these 2 bit only indicate whether the block is the first, last, an intermediate or an only block of a message (column 6, lines 22-28).

On a token ring system as that described by Takiyasu, continuity is inherent, since all packets are sent sequentially and follow the same transmission path. The addition of segment type information 15A does not ensure continuity; it only makes it possible to detect the beginning and end of a message. If the several segmented cells described by Takiyasu were transmitted over a packet switched network where packets could be received out of order, there would be no way of ensuring continuity in a

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transmission destination terminal.

Consequently, in addition to not suggesting encryption, Takiyasu also does not suggest addition of control information ensuring continuity between data groups.

Furthermore, the present invention is directed towards a cryptographic apparatus that receives packets, and that computes whether, as a result of a packet length after encryption, there is a need for fragmentation of the packet data. Since Takiyasu does not discuss encryption, fragmentation that is made necessary by the encryption is also not discussed. This would be a problem created by the introduction of Aziz into Takiyasu, not solved by it, and hence it is a problem that is not addressed by any of the references, alone or in combination.

Accordingly, because the combination of Takiyasu and Aziz fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1, and because the combination of the teachings of the two references would introduce rather than solve the problems addressed by the present invention, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Dependent claim 2 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.
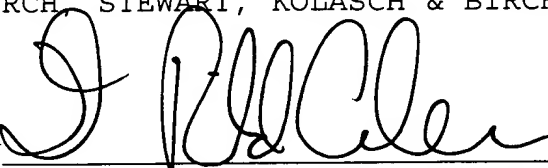
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure

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